

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A networked apparatus that belongs to a group, and that is connected via a network to at least one device in the group and to at least one device out of the group, said networked apparatus comprising:

a storage unit operable to store a content and duplication restricting information that is attached to the content, the duplication restricting information indicating a permitted number of duplications, which represents a number of times that the content is able to be duplicated to a device, wherein the permitted number of duplications is a sum of a number of permitted duplications to a first type of device and a number of permitted duplications to a second type of device;

a receiving unit operable to receive, from a device, a duplication request for the content;

a judging unit operable to judge whether the device is in the group or out of the group; and

a control unit operable to duplicate the content to the device if said judging unit judges that the device is judged to be in the group, and impose restrictions on duplication of the content to the device if said judging unit judges that the device is judged to be out of the group.

2. (Currently Amended) The networked apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

~~the storage unit stores duplication restricting information that is attached to the content, the duplication restricting information showing (i) a permitted number representing right to duplicate the content, and (ii) stored in said storage unit also indicates restrictions to be imposed on duplication of the content to a device that is out of the group;~~ and

~~the said control unit controls~~ is operable to control duplication of the content based on the duplication restricting information.

3. (Currently Amended) The networked apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein:

each device that is in the group is one of a first type of device that records a content to a non-portable recording medium and a second type of device that records a content to a portable recording medium; and;

~~the permitted number is a sum of a permitted number of duplications to a first type device and a permitted number of duplications to a second type device,~~

~~the said control unit judges is operable to judge~~, if the device that issued the duplication request is judged to be in the group, whether the device is ~~a~~the first type of device or ~~a~~the second type of device, and ~~controls~~control duplication of the content based on the judgment by the said control unit and the duplication restricting information.

4. (Currently Amended) The networked apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein:

each device that is in the group belongs to at least one subgroup;

~~the said storage unit stores is operable to store~~, in advance, a first table showing indicating whether duplication of the content from a subgroup to another subgroup is permitted; and

~~the said control unit judges is operable to judge~~, if the device that issued the duplication request is judged to be in the group, to which subgroup the device belongs, and ~~controls~~control duplication of the content based on the judgment by the said control unit, the duplication restricting information, and the first table.

5. (Currently Amended) The networked apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein

~~the said control unit transmits is operable to transmit~~, to the device that issued the duplication request if the device is judged to be in the group, information showing indicating a permitted number that is equal to or smaller than the permitted number stored in the said storage unit ~~so as to transfer at least part of the right to duplicate the content~~, and ~~refuses~~refuse to perform the transmission to the device that issued the duplication request if the device is judged to be out of the group.

6. (Currently Amended) The networked apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein

~~the said control unit transmits is operable to transmit~~, to the device that issued the

duplication request, the content attached by to the duplication restricting information that includes the permitted number showing said the equal or smaller number.

7. (Currently Amended) The networked apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein: the said storage unit networked apparatus stores is operable to store secret information that is also stored in all devices that is are in the group; and the said judging unit judges is operable to judge that the device that issued the duplication request is in the group if the device has the secret information, and otherwise judges judge that the device is out of the group if the device does not have the secret information.

8. (Currently Amended) The networked apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein: the said control unit includes:includes
a first generating unit operable to generate a first permitted number of duplications; and
a second generating unit operable to generate a second permitted number of duplications, the second permitted number being obtained by subtracting the first permitted number from the permitted number of duplications that is currently stored in the said storage unit; and
the said control unit is operable to (i) transmits transmit the first permitted number and the content to the device that issued the duplication request so as to transfer at least part of the right to duplicate the content, and (ii) overwrites overwrite the permitted number with the second permitted number.

9. (Currently Amended) The networked apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein: the duplication request is composed of a requested number of duplications of the content; and,
the said first generating unit judges is operable to (i) judge whether the permitted number of duplications stored in the said storage unit is equal to or greater than the requested number of duplications, and designates(ii) designate, if the judgment is affirmative permitted number of duplications stored in said storage unit is judged to be

equal to or greater than the requested number of duplications, the requested number of duplications as the first permitted number, and designates(iii) designate, if the judgment is negative permitted number of duplications stored in said storage unit is judged to be less than the requested number of duplications, the permitted number of duplications as the first permitted number.

10. (Currently Amended) The networked apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein:
each device that is in the group is one of a first type of device that records a content to a non-portable recording medium and a second type of device that records a content to a portable recording medium;
~~the permitted number is a sum of a permitted number of duplications to a first type device and a permitted number of duplications to a second type device,~~
the duplication request is composed of a requested number of duplications of the content to ~~a~~the first type of device and a requested number of duplications of the content to ~~a~~the second type of device; and,
~~the said~~ first generating unit ~~judges~~ is operable to (i) judge whether each of the two permitted numbers are equal to or greater than a corresponding one of the two requested numbers, and designates(ii) designate, if each of the two permitted numbers are judged to be equal to or greater than the corresponding one of the two requested numbers, judgment is affirmative, a sum of the two requested numbers as the first permitted number, and designates(iii) designate, if ~~the judgment is negative~~ each of the two permitted numbers are not judged to be equal to or greater than the corresponding one of the two requested numbers, a sum of the two permitted numbers as the first permitted number.

11. (Currently Amended) The networked apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein:
each device that is in the group belongs to at least one subgroup;
~~the said~~ first generating unit ~~stores~~ is operable to store a first table showing indicating whether or not duplication of the content from a subgroup to another subgroup is permitted, ~~judges~~ judge with reference to the first table whether or not duplication of the content to the device that issued the duplication request is permitted, and generates

generate the first permitted number if the judgment is affirmative duplication of the content to the device that issued the duplication request is judged to be permitted.

12. (Currently Amended) The networked apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein:
~~the said~~ first generating unit is further stores operable to store a second table showing indicating subgroup identifiers that are each associated with an upper limit to a permitted number that is possibly held in total by devices belonging to a subgroup identified by a corresponding subgroup identifier; ;

the duplication request includes a subgroup identifier identifying a subgroup to which the device that issued the duplication request belongs; ; and

~~the said~~ first generating unit generates is operable to generate the first permitted number with reference to the second table.

13. (Currently Amended) The networked apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein
~~the said~~ control unit transmits is operable to transmit, to the device that issued the duplication request-, the first and second tables together with the content and the first permitted number.

14. (Currently Amended) The networked apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising a time management unit operable to clock a date-and-time, wherein
wherein said the control unit stores is operable to store a predetermined date-and-time; and a post-update permitted number, and updatesupdate, when the date-and-time clocked by the said time management unit reaches the predetermined date-and-time, the permitted number of duplications stored in the said storage unit by overwriting with the post-update permitted number.

15. (Currently Amended) The networked apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising a time management unit operable to clock a date-and-time, wherein
wherein said the control unit stores is operable to store a predetermined date-and-time and information identifying a device to which the content is to be duplicated, and transmitstransmit, when the date-and-time clocked by the said time management unit

reaches the predetermined date-and-time, to the identified device, the content together with a permitted number that is equal to or smaller than the permitted number of duplications stored in the said storage unit so as to transfer at least part of the right to duplicate the content.

16. (Currently Amended) The networked apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the said control unit transmits is operable to transmit, to the device, if judged to be out of the group, the content together with right to play back the content if the device is judged to be out of the group.

17. (Currently Amended) A content duplication management system comprising a first device that belongs to a group, and a second device connected to the said first device via a network, wherein

wherein said the first device includes:

a storage unit storing a content and a permitted number of duplications, which represents a number of times that the content is able to be duplicated, the permitted number of duplications being a sum of a number of permitted duplications to a first type of device and a number of permitted duplications to a second type of device representing right to duplicate the content;

a receiving unit operable to receive, from the said second device, a duplication request for the content;

a judging unit operable to judge whether or not said the second device belongs to the group; and

a control unit operable to transmit, to the said second device if said judging unit judges that said second device belongs judged to belong to the group, information showing indicating a permitted number of duplications that is equal to or smaller than the permitted number of duplications stored in the said control unit so as to transfer at least part of the right to duplicate the content, and refuses refuse to perform the transmission to the said second device if judged said judging unit judges that the said second device does not belong to be out of the group, and wherein said the second device includes:

a requesting unit operable to transmit to the ~~first device~~, a duplication request for the content to said first device; and

an obtaining unit operable to receive, from ~~the~~said first device, permission to store the content and the permitted number of duplications.

18. (Currently Amended) The content management system according to Claim 17, further comprising a plurality of devices that belong to the group, wherein:

~~the~~said first device further includes a detection information transmitting unit operable to transmit, to each of the devices, detection information used to detect the requested content; and

each of the devices ~~receives~~is operable to receive the detection information and ~~performs~~perform a search based on the detection information to judge whether there is the requested content stored within the device.

19. (Currently Amended) A content duplication management method for use by a networked apparatus, the networked apparatus ~~stores~~storing a content and duplication restricting information that is attached to the content, ~~belongs~~belonging to a group, and ~~is~~being connected via a network to at least one device in the group and to at least one device out of the group, ~~the~~said method comprising:

a receiving step of receiving, from a device, a duplication request for the content; a judging step of judging whether the device is in the group or out of the group; and

a controlling step of duplicating the content to the device if said judging judges that the device is judged to be in the group, and imposing restrictions on duplication of the content to the device if said judging judges that the device is judged to be out of the group;.

wherein the duplication restricting information indicates a permitted number of duplications, which represents a number of times that the content is able to be duplicated to a device, and the permitted number of duplications is a sum of a number of duplications to a first type of device and a number of permitted duplications to a second type of device.

20. (Currently Amended) A content duplication management program, tangibly embodied in a computer-readable medium, for use by a networked apparatus, the networked apparatus stores storing a content and duplication restricting information that is attached to the content, belongs belonging to a group, and is being connected via a network to at least one device in the group and to at least one device out of the group, the said program, when run, causing the networked apparatus to perform operations comprising:

 a receiving step of receiving, from a device, a duplication request for the content;
 a judging step of judging whether the device is in the group or out of the group;
and

 a controlling step of duplicating the content to the device if said judging judges that the device is judged to be in the group, and imposing restrictions on duplication of the content to the device if said judging judges that the device is judged to be out of the group,

 wherein the duplication restricting information indicates a permitted number of duplications, which represents a number of times that the content is able to be duplicated to a device, and the permitted number of duplications is a sum of a number of duplications to a first type of device and a number of permitted duplications to a second type of device.